

Message Text

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PAGE 01 LISBON 04452 051727Z

46

ACTION PM-07

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 AID-20 OMB-01 EB-11 TRSE-00

CIAE-00 DODE-00 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04

RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20 USIA-15 ACDA-19 IO-14

IGA-02 AF-10 DRC-01 /181 W
----- 040485

R 051530Z DEC 73

FM AMEMBASSY LISBON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8831

C O N F I D E N T I A L LISBON 4452

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: MASS, EAD, PO

SUBJECT: FY 1974 FOREIGN ASSISTANCE LEGISLATION

REF: STATE 236151

IN RESPONSE REFTEL, EMBASSY CONCURS IN FOLLOWING
ASSESSMENT PREPARED BY COMUSFORAZ LAJES FIELD AZORES:
QUOTE:

O 051125Z DEC 73
FM COMUSFORAZ LAJES FLD AZORES
TO AMEMBASSY LISBON PORTUGAL

C O N F I D E N T I A L//JOO//

SUBJECT: ACCESS OF MEDIA CORRESPONDENTS TO LAJES

REF : A. STATE 236151

B. LISBON 4399

1. ANSWERS TO STATE 236151* PARA 5 (A), (B), (C) ARE AS
FOLLOWS:

(A) NEWS MEDIA REPRESENTATIVES HAVE BEEN DENIED
ACCESS TO LAJES FIELD ON AT LEAST ONE KNOWN OCCASION. THE
NEWSMAN DID NOT ATTEMPT TO SECURE CLEARANCE BUT WAS
DISCOVERED ON BASE TAKING PICTURES AGAINST ESTABLISHED
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PAGE 02 LISBON 04452 051727Z

PORTUGUESE REGULATIONS.

(B) (I) DENIAL OCCURRED DURING THE RECENTLY COMPLETED NICKLE GRASS OPERATION. HOWEVER, IT MUST BE UNDERSTOOD THAT DENIAL WAS A JOINT COMUSFORAZ/AZORES AIR ZONE DECISION AND DENIAL WAS OF MUTUAL BENEFIT TO BOTH GOVERNMENTS.

(B) (II) HOST GOVERNMENT AND U.S. GOVERNMENT CITED SECURITY REASONS AS THE BASIS FOR THE DENIAL.

(B) (III) IN THE CASE OF THE NICKLE GRASS OPERATION IT IS FELT THAT DENIAL WAS COMPLETELY JUSTIFIED. LARGE SCALE PRESS COVERAGE OF THE OPERATION COULD HAVE RESULTED IN SERIOUS BASE SECURITY PROBLEMS AS WELL AS IMMEDIATE/LONG RANGE ECONOMIC AND POLITICAL DIFFICULTIES FOR THE GOVERNMENT OF PORTUGAL.

(B) (IV) THIS IS THE ONLY KNOWN DENIAL DURING THE PAST TWO YEARS. AS A MATTER OF OPERATING POLICY ALL VISITS TO THE U.S. PORTION OF LAJES BY NEWS MEDIA PERSONNEL ARE CLEARED WITH THE AZORES AIR ZONE. MINOR RESTRICTIONS ARE IMPOSED BY THE AZORES AIR ZONE BUT TOTAL ACCESS IS RARELY DENIED.

(B) (V) UNDER SIMILAR NICKLE GRASS CIRCUMSTANCES IT IS FELT THAT PRESS ACCESS WOULD BE DENIED TODAY.

(C) AS STATED ABOVE, MEDIA IS ALLOWED ACCESS TO THE U.S. PORTION OF LAJES PROVIDING PRIOR CLEARANCE IS OBTAINED FROM THE AZORES AIR ZONE. NORMALLY PRESS CANNOT PHOTOGRAPH ANY PORTUGUESE AIR FORCE (PAF) ASSETS, PERSONNEL OR FACILITIES OR CONDUCT INTERVIEWS WITH PORTUGUESE NATIONALS. ACCESS TO U.S. CONTROLLED ASSETS/PERSONNEL IS USUALLY GRANTED.

2. ALTHOUGH THE NEW LEGISLATION APPEARS CLEARLY TO INCLUDE LAJES IT IS STILL A FACT THAT USFORAZ IS A GUEST ON A PAF FACILITY. AS SUCH THE PAF HAS OVERALL JURISDICTION OF THE BASE INCLUDING THE PRESS. WE HAVE ALWAYS ENJOYED A CLOSE JOINT SPIRIT OF COOPERATION BUT THIS HAS BEEN MADE POSSIBLE DUE TO OUR CLEAR APPRECIATION FOR THE HOST/TENANT ARRANGEMENT.

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PAGE 03 LISBON 04452 051727Z

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